HISTORY SHEET OF HARISCHANDRA KRISHNARAO KOREGAONKAR.

Between 25 and 30 years ago a woman named Awdabai, a native of Koregaon in Goa (Portuguese territory) had a son, named Hari, reputably by one Balkrishna, *alias* Tatia Shiva Sarang who was then and is still keeping her.

Balkrishna is a fisherman by caste and a native of Khawaul, a village in the Vengula Taluka of the Ratnagiri District, where he owns some landed property; he was employed as a clerk in the Customs Department in Bombay and retired about four years ago on a pension of Rs. 25 per mensem.

Hari was educated at the expense of his reputed father, Balkrishna, graduated from the Elphinstone College, Bombay, and adopted the name of Harischandra Krishnarao Koregaonkar. He passed the B. A. Examination in 1903, being awarded at the same time the Cobden Club Silver Medal for proficiency in Political Economy and took his M. A. degree in 1906.

After passing the M.A. Examination Koregaonkar went to Gwalior and was shortly afterwards granted by the Maharajah a three years scholarship to study engineering in England. He is said to have travelled from Bombay to Europe in June 1906 in the same steamer as Madan Lal Dhingra, the murderer of Sir William Curzon-Wyllie.

In London Koregaonkar studied at the Central Technical College, Exhibition Road, Kensington, W. There is no information of his being mixed up in politics until January 1909, when he was reported to be one of the leaders of the "India House" Society under V. D. Savarkar. From this time on he is reported to have been a fairly regular attendant at the weekly Sunday meetings held at the "India House", Highgate; he does not appear to have spoken at these meetings, but the meeting held on the 9th May 1909 was wound up by Koregaonkar singing a National song the purport of which was as follows:—

"Oh Indians! rise and take up arms. No nation has been able to obtain liberty except by shedding blood. The Feringhee is tyrannising over you. Awake and defend yourselves. Fire guns and cannons on the Goras, the Englishmen and wipe them out of the Motherland."

On the 1st July 1909, Madan Lal Dhingra, who had also been an attendant of the "India House" meetings, shot Sir William Curzon-Wyllie at the Imperial Institute. During the investigation of this murder

the London Police ascertained that on the afternoon of the 1st July Madan Lal had visited Koregaonkar at his lodging and that Koregaonkar had been present at the Imperial Institute and had spoken to Madan Lal shortly before the murder, but they did not consider there was sufficient in his conduct to justify his arrest. Information from a private source has, however, been received that Koregaonkar was deputed by the leaders of the Society to keep Madan Lal up to the mark and this is to a great extent corroborated by an incident, which occurred at the final meeting held at the "India House" on the 4th July 1909 before it was closed and at which it is significant that Koregaonkar was not present, when Savarkar in making a speech eulogizing Madan Lal Dhingra's deed said with emphasis:—"There was one man to watch and guide the whole thing and he says that Dhingra stood cool and calm firing at the prostrate figure of his country's enemy, Wyllie."

On the 21st July 1909 there was a meeting at the Indian Restaurant No. 17, Red Lion Passage, Holborn, attended by all the prominent members of the "India House" party, the object of which was to express to Koregaonkar the admiration of those present for his good work in promoting Indian Nationalism and to wish him a pleasant journey home. V. D. Savarkar was the spokesman and Koregaonkar in reply thanked those present and said he would continue to work in the interest of the Indian Nationalist movement.

On the 24th July 1909 Koregaonkar, having a few days previously paid a visit to Madan Lal Dhingra in prison, left London for India, being seen off at Victoria Station by Savarkar and others.

What Koregaonkar's future line of conduct is likely to be may be gathered from the following conversation which took place between him and Virendranath Chattopadhyaya a few days before his departure:—

"Chattopadhyaya:—Then you are going to leave for India on Saturday.

Koregaonkar:—Yes.

Chattopadhyaya:—What will be your address?

Koregaonkar:—Care of Maharaja of Gwalior.

Chattopadhyaya:—I see then you have some Rajas and Maharajas on your side. Does he sympathise with you?

Koregaonkar:—You know I am a Maratha and all those who have any interest in the cause of the Marathas must necessarily sympathise with us. But let me tell you that the Maharajah of Gwalior does not want to be openly friendly with us, although Gaikwar of Baroda, who is personally known to me, must be reckoned as the spirit of these movements. The latter does not simply sympathise with us by words but practically. The whole movement goes on with his aid.

Chattopadhyaya:—Then, will you not go and win the Maharajah of Gwalior on your side?

Koregaonkar:—But I am working for him and in Gwalior I shall work for him. Our State owns a factory for revolvers and you can get a good revolver for Rs. 15 only. There are great facilities in States with respect to arms. You are free to keep any number of arms and ammunition.

Chattopadhyaya:—Then, will you not establish an arms manufacturing factory in some secret place in Gwalior.

Koregaonkar:—I would fain do it. I know everything with regard to the manufacture of explosives and guns, etc., but at first it will be rather difficult to hoodwink the Resident and his staff. But like the Bengalis we will try to make subterranean factories. For a year or two until we get a number of engineers acquainted with the manufacture of rifles, we will have to smuggle arms into India.

Chattopadhyaya:—But how will you do it.

Koregaonkar:—It is not difficult if you have enough money. You can buy anything even here through Englishmen themselves and they also promise to smuggle them into India, if you pay them more.

Again the Afghans on the frontier have an arsenal of their own and they are ready to supply you with good guns and cannons if you pay them well. The Panjabis get arms from them now."

Koregaonkar arrved in Bombay on the 18th August 1909 by Austrian Lloyd S.S. *Austria*. According to a report received from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, he talked freely about the "India House" and its moving spirit Savarkar whose aim, he said, was to drive the English out of India by means of another mutiny if possible. He, of course, pretended to be a Moderate of the Moderates. He admitted having attended meetings at the "India House," the Guru Govind Singh and the Mutiny

meetings, also that he knew Dhingra with whom he spoke shortly before he committed the murders. Savarkar, he said, expressed no displeasure at the murders, in fact said something about the work having been well begun.

Koregaonkar left Bombay on the 22nd August 1909 for Gwalior, where he is at present residing.